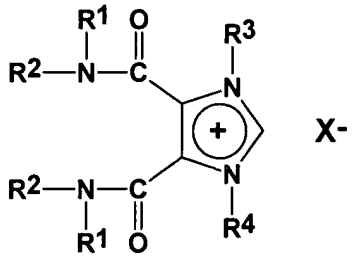
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

After entry into the U.S. national stage, and assurance of a U.S. filing date, the present document revises the claims from the PCT application by amending claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 11-26, 30, 31, 35, 37-41, 43 and 44, and canceling claims 45-50. According to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), after entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims in the case is as follows:

1. (Original) A method of promoting tissue repair or wound healing, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a 1,3-dialkyl-4,5-bis (optionally N-substituted carbamoyl)imidazolium salt to a subject in need of such treatment.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~of reducing inflammation, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a 1,3 dialkyl 4,5 bis (optionally N substituted carbamoyl)imidazolium salt to a subject in need of such treatment~~ , wherein said method reduces inflammation in said subject.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which the 1,3-dialkyl-4,5-bis (optionally N-substituted carbamoyl)imidazolium salt is a compound of formula I



I

in which R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, and each is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a linear or branched alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, which may optionally be substituted by an amino, substituted or unsubstituted aminomethyl, nitro, hydroxyl, halogen, carboxy, or carboxylic acid amide group;

R^3 and R^4 are the same or different, and each is a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and

X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic anion selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, iodide, sulphate, nitrate, phosphate, perchlorate, formate, acetate, fumarate, malate, malonate, citrate, benzoate, salicylate, benzenesulphonate, methylsulphonate, p-toluenesulphonate, gentisate, and naphthalene-8-sulphonate.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, in which at least one of R^3 and R^4 is unsubstituted.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, in which both R^3 and R^4 are unsubstituted.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, in which where R^1 or R^2 is substituted with a substituted sulphonamide, the substituent is an alkyl chain of 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 3, in which R^1 and R^2 are different; and R^3 and R^4 are the same or different, and is each independently an alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, in which R^3 and R^4 are both alkyl groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, in which R^3 and R^4 are both methyl or both ethyl, or one of R3 and R4 is methyl and the other is ethyl.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 8, in which R^3 is methyl and R^4 is ethyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 3, in which X^- is benzenesulfonate, benzoate, salicylate, or gentisate.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~10~~ 11, in which X^- is benzenesulphonate.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 3, in which X^- is an inorganic anion selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, and iodide.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 3, in which the subject is suffering from epithelial damage to skin or mucous tissue, caused by erosions, ulcers, chronic injury, infection, trauma or surgery.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, in which the subject is suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of traumatic wounds, surgical wounds, burns, dehisced surgical incisions, grafts, diabetic ulcers, varicose ulcers, decubitus ulcers (bedsores), trophic ulcers, tropical ulcers, steroid ulcers, indolent ulcers, oral or pharyngeal ulcers, aphthous ulcers, and corneal ulcers; and cervical erosions.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, in which the subject is suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of gastric or duodenal ulcers, and ulcerative colitis.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, in which the subject is suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of myocardial damage, liver damage and bone damage.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17 ~~of stimulating~~ , wherein said method stimulates liver regeneration in said subject.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15 ~~of reducing or preventing~~ , wherein said method reduces or prevents scar formation in said subject.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 ~~of treatment of~~ , wherein said method treats ulcerative colitis in said subject.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15 ~~of treatment of~~ , wherein said method treats oral or pharyngeal ulceration in said subject.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17 ~~of treatment of~~ , wherein said method treats hepatic cirrhosis or chronic active hepatitis in said subject.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 ~~of treatment of~~ , wherein said method treats gastric or duodenal ulcers in said subject.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17 ~~of treatment of~~ , wherein said method treats myocardial infarction in said subject.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17 ~~of stimulating~~ , wherein said method stimulates bone repair in said subject.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to25~~ claim 1, in which the 1,3-dialkyl-4,5-bis (optionally N-substituted carbamoyl) imidazolium salt is selected from the group consisting of

1,3-dimethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium benzenesulfonate,

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium benzenesulfonate,

1,3-diethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium benzenesulfonate,

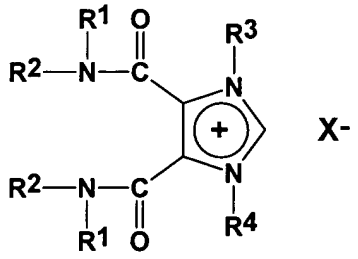
1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium benzoate,

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium salicylate,

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium gentisate, and

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium chloride.

27. (Original) A compound of formula I



in which R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, and each is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a linear or branched alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, which may optionally be substituted by an amino, substituted or unsubstituted aminomethyl, nitro, hydroxyl, hydrogen, carboxy, or carboxylic acid amide group;

R^3 and R^4 are the same or different, and each is a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and

X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic anion selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, iodide, sulphate, nitrate, phosphate, perchlorate, formate, acetate, fumarate, malate, malonate, citrate, benzoate, salicylate, benzenesulphonate, methylsulphonate, p-toluenesulphonate, gentisate, and naphthalene-8-sulphonate,

with the proviso that when X^- is benzenesulphonate, R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is methyl, R^3 and R^4 are not methyl or ethyl.

28. (Original) A compound according to claim 27, in which at least one of R^3 and R^4 is unsubstituted.

29. (Original) A compound according to claim 28, in which both R^3 and R^4 are unsubstituted.

30. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 27 to 29~~ claim 27, in which where R^1 or R^2 is substituted with a substituted sulphonamide, the substituent is an alkyl chain of 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

31. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 27 to 29~~ claim 27, in which R^1 and R^2 are different; and R^3 and R^4 are the same or different, and are each independently an alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

32. (Original) A compound according to claim 31, in which R^3 and R^4 are alkyl groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

33. (Original) A compound according to claim 32, in which R^3 and R^4 are both methyl or both ethyl, or one of R^3 and R^4 is methyl and the other is ethyl.

34. (Original) A compound according to claim 33, in which R^3 is methyl and R^4 is ethyl.

35. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 27 to 32~~ claim 27, in which X^- is benzenesulfonate, benzoate, salicylate, or gentisate, with the proviso that when X^- is benzenesulphonate, R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is methyl, R^3 and R^4 are not methyl or ethyl.

36. (Original) A compound according to claim 35, in which X^- is benzenesulphonate.

37. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 27 to 34~~ claim 27, in which X^- is an inorganic anion selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, and iodide.

38. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 27 to 37~~ claim 27, selected from the group consisting of

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium benzoate,

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium salicylate,

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium gentisate, and

1-methyl-3-ethyl-4,5-bis(N-methylcarbamoyl)imidazolium chloride.

39. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition comprising a~~ compound ~~as defined in any one of claims 27 to 38~~ according to claim 27, together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier.

40. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition comprising a compound as defined in claim 27, together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier, in which the composition~~ compound according to claim 39, in which the carrier is adapted for topical administration.

41. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition comprising a compound as defined in claim 27, together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier, in which the composition~~ compound according to claim 39, in which the carrier is adapted for oral, buccal or sub-lingual administration.

42. (Original) A method of synthesis of a compound according to claim 27, comprising the step of subjecting a 1-alkylimidazole-4,5-bis(optionally N-substituted carbamoyl)imidazole to alkylation (quaternization) with an alkyl benzenesulfonate to produce the corresponding imidazolium benzenesulfonate, and optionally replacing the benzenesulfonate anion by ion exchange, in which the imidazole moiety is as defined in claim 27.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a 1,3-dialkyl-4,5-bis(optionally N-substituted carbamoyl) imidazolium salt for the manufacture of a medicament for the promotion of tissue repair or wound healing~~ A method of promoting tissue repair, promoting wound healing or reducing inflammation in a subject, comprising administering to said subject a 1,3-dialkyl-4,5-bis

(optionally N-substituted carbamoyl)imidazolium salt in an amount effective to promote tissue repair, promote wound healing or reduce inflammation in said subject.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a 1,3 dialkyl 4,5 bis(optionally N substituted carbamoyl) imidazolium salt for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing inflammation~~ A composition comprising a compound according to claim 27 and a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier.

Claims 45-50 deleted